

Application No. 09/151,321
Amendment dated January 23, 2007
Reply to Notice of Allowance of October 23, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-9. These sheets, which includes Figs. 1-9, replace the original sheets.

Attachment: Six Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-16 and 18-20 have been allowed and renumbered as claims 1-19.

Drawings

Drawings 1-9 have been corrected as indicated by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review dated September 11, 1998 and replacement drawings are attached hereto.

Claim Amendments

Claims 11 and 15 have been amended to correct minor grammatical and antecedent matters. These changes are not necessitated by the prior art, are unrelated to the patentability of the invention over the prior art, and do not introduce any new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 1-16 and 18-20, by the Examiner, is noted with appreciation.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

In the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the examiner states that the allowance is in view of the Decision on Appeal. In the decision of the Board of Appeals, a statement is made questioning why the examiner had not rejected claim 1 in his office action. Applicants do not believe that the Decision of the Board of Appeals suggests that claim 1 or any of its dependents should have been rejected by the examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Instead, the Board appears to have been commenting on the consistency of the examiner's position.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a


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fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


Thomas N. Tarnay
Registration No. 41,341
Attorney for Applicant

TNT/FA:jkk/llb
SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3388
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
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